ops has been investigated. Most of these charges have been found to be baseless; whereever such charges have been proved, quick and salutary action has been taken against the guilty.

Agreement with Sri Lanka for withdrawal of IPKF

260. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been arrived at with Sri Lankan Government for the withdrawal of IPKF in stages;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the IPKF have achieved the objective for which the force was sent to Sri Lanka stating the price the country had to pay in terms of man and material to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Sri Lanka from May 30th to June 1st it was jointly agreed between India and Sri Lanka that as the situation in the Northern and Eastern provinces continued to improve, the IPKF force levels will be reviewed depending on operational requirements and the situation on the ground.

(c) IPKF operations have restored near normal conditions in the North and the East. The question of costs involved can be addressed only when their task is completed.

IPKF men killed in Sri Lanka

261. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IPKF men killed in Sri Lanka during the last 2 month, month-wise; and

(b) what is the present strength of IPKF men in Sri Lanka at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The number of IPKF personnel killed in the months of May, June and July 1988 is as follows:—

May 88	... 35 personnel
June 88	... 35 personnel
July (upto 18|7)	... 37 personnel

(b) The present strength of IPKF in Sri Lanka is about 49,000.

Tapping of Ground Water Resources

262 SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the Gujarat Government to restrict tapping of ground water resources; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Over exploitation of ground water in parts of the State of Gujarat has resulted in significant lowering of ground water levels in those parts. To prevent harmful effects of unregulated exploitation of the ground water resources and quality deterioration, Government of India have circulated a model bill for enactment, with a view to regulating ground water development on scientific lines.

Crash of fighter plane belonging to INS Virat

263. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the crash of the fighter plane